



FACT SHEET – RHODE ISLAND QUARTER

Background: The Rhode Island quarter is part of the United States Mint's Fifty States Commemorative Coin Project. Information on this project can be found at the Mint's special web site: <http://www.usmint.gov/50states/default.cfm>. Each state will have a commemorative quarter, issued in the order the states entered the Union. The Rhode Island quarter will be minted and issued in May, 2001. Approximately 700 million of these quarters will be in circulation, and this design will represent Rhode Island -- and its people -- for generations to come.

In April, 1999, Governor Almond began the process of choosing the Rhode Island quarter by establishing a Coin Concept Advisory Panel, made up of distinguished representatives of Rhode Island's art, design, historical and numismatic (coin collecting) communities. (See attached press release from May 1999 for names of selection panel members). In addition, Governor Almond also appointed the late Senator John Chafee to the advisory panel, since he had been the original sponsor of the national coin project legislation in the U.S. Senate. The late Senator Chafee was in attendance at the selection panel meeting in June, 1999.

Over 500 ideas were reviewed by the Advisory panel, including hundreds of drawings from Rhode Islanders of all ages. While many of the actual designs were exciting, the Mint had strict rules that only design "concepts" (or ideas) could be submitted by each state.

Four "coin concepts" were submitted by Governor Almond to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in June, 1999. Recommended were:

- A depiction of Roger Williams
- Bay or Ocean scenes or vistas
- Gilbert Stuart, artist who produced the most famous portraits of George Washington
- A text-based presentation: Rhode Island unique is a state founded upon ideas, which are best represented by words. The panel recommended a text-based image, similar to the dramatic carvings found on many of our national monuments, with words like "A Lively Experiment", "Hope", "Tolerance" and "Freedom". This concept was not used.

The designers at the U.S. Mint took these concepts, and over the next several months produced a series of designs, based on what would work on their unique "canvas": the reverse side of a U.S. quarter. The final designs had to go through several review committees, including the U.S. Fine Arts Commission, chaired by Rhode Islander J. Carter Brown. After several redesigns the final proposals were approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and were submitted to Governor Almond this week.

From here: the U.S. Mint has asked for Rhode Island to make its choice by late July, 2000. The chosen design will then go through a series of production steps at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, and the first Rhode Island quarter will be "struck" in May, 2001.

RHODE ISLANDERS HELP CHOOSE THEIR QUARTER

Rhode Island will be the first state where its citizens will play a significant role in the selection of their quarter.

In a cooperative venture between the State Arts Council and Rhode Island's public library system, ballot boxes will be set up in each of the state's 79 public libraries and library branches. Printed ballots should be in libraries starting Monday, June 19.

Rhode Islanders can vote for their favorite design between now and June 30. They can do so at their local public library, or via a special voting page on the Web.

RI Web Site address for voting: http://www.risca.state.ri.us/vote_quarter.htm (note the underscore between the words vote + quarter)

While we recognize that we can't regulate this voting process, here is what we are saying:

- One vote per person.
- We encourage votes from young or old alike.
- Voting should be limited to Rhode Island residents.

At the close of business on Friday, June 30, each library will pack up its ballots and forward them, through the State Library System, to the State Arts Council. Votes from the web and from printed ballots will be tabulated, and we expect a final count by the following Friday, July 7 (since it will take time to collect ballots from all of our state's public libraries through the library delivery service).

The final vote tally will be announced by the Governor's Office.